

Feb. 2 1943

Mr Art Carter
628 N. Eutaw St.
Baltimore Md.

Dear Art:

First, thanks for your letter, column and the nice picture, in this weeks Afro. I really dont remember when it was made. When did I smile that broadly? It was nice to get your letter, and know you were interested in talking to me about our baseball. I am sorry we rushed away, but we just caught a train back to Newark.

Your first question about the program for the NNL, I really think it could be worked into something nice, BUT to look things squarely in the face, how do the prospects for 1943 look to you? I am not at all sure we will be able to operate. Things were bad enough under ordinary conditions, but now we have the war with the gasoline and rubber, curtailment of night baseball, and manpower shortage, coupled with the Mexican situation. I have learned the man from Mexico is due in America this month and the ballplayers are supposed to leave the middle of next. Unless we can do something to stop this condition I really do not feel we will have a chance. There are about 8 of The Eagles working in Newark now in defence plants, and I cannot believe they will be permitted to leave the defence plants to go play ball in another country. But how can I get to the right man to tell the story? You should be able to help out there. I would gladly come to Washington to see some one, if we can get to them. It seems to me McNutt would be the man to see. He could easily freeze all manpowere here. The war dept. could also refuse to let men leave war work for anything but the army. I know it could be handled, it is just a matter of getting to the right person. In the meantime I know all the members of the NNL are sitting still just hoping something will happen.

Poseys solution to the shortage of ballplayers is to raid the western league. That is noosolution. That only creates another problem, one the oweners cannot win. The ballplayers will love an oppertunity to jump from one league to another. Do you think Houstin, Hastie, Finley, or anyone could help us? Here is a chance for you to do

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Negro Baseball a real service. Arrange an interview, and I will come to Washington. Will bring Posey and Sonny if you think it will help.

Now to get back to the program, IF we get going the plan I had in mind(not for publicity) is to give the relief we select, the returns from a Sunday game in each city we play in. To play in each city a different month. The Sunday we give to the relief, all the other four teams pool their money and divide among the six teams. this will prevent any team from suffering any hardship. After all Negro Baseball is not the Major leagues, and there are no millionaires. To give up a Sunday would be hard to do, but this plan I have would prevent any hardship from being worked on anyone. What do you think.?

I am sure we will be able to get cooperation from the Asso. Press, and all other agencies. There is where you come in. Can and will you help?

About our training plans, we are now trying to arrange to train at Bordentown. That would be an ideal place. It is close by, and has everything needed. I have written Prof. Valentine, and am waiting to hear from him. Do you know him? Maybe you can help here too.

You know Art I have a lot of respect and regard for you. I am sure you are interested wholeheartedly in Negro Baseball, and that is why I expect so much from you. At least I am asking for a lot of help in this letter. If I am asking too much don't feel at all backward about saying so. After all you are very busy with your, regular job, and I know you are being called on daily for additional work as we all are. I will always have the highest regard for you, at the same time I would appreciate a little help. Ha'

Please let me know what you think about the plan for the benefit games, and please let me hear from you very soon. Some of these problems will not wait, the one about Mexico especially.

Again thanks for your letter. Abe sends regards

Very Truly Yours

Excuse all bad typing. I am strictly an amateur